MR. TAYLOR VS. "GRIER'S NOTES ON THE FLORA OF LONG ISLAND."

N. M. GRIER.

THE title refers to certain publications of the writer (**1–3** in appended bibliography), and their criticism by Taylor (**4** and **6**). In connection with these the review of Skutch (**5**), will be of interest to botanists desiring to make use of the varied plant resources of the vicinity of the Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y. A list of *addenda et corrigenda* will be issued to the latter article referred to (**3**) as opportunity permits. The basis of these plant lists consists of records made by botanists working at the Biological Laboratory over many years.

I am unaquainted with Mr. Taylor personally but if he had written me, I might have saved him the arduous task of "needlessly checking through hundreds of such records on the off chance that some wheat might turn up among the chaff." (Remarks in quotation are those of Mr. Taylor.) I could have reminded him that the papers (**1, 2**) were especially designed for that purpose. It is true that one article listed several species known so far only in cultivation from Long Island, but the majority of such species are listed by Gray as falling within the region covered by that manual. It therefore seemed a contribution to our knowledge of the plant life of the island to indicate their presence there, if only for the convenient tracing of changes in the plant life in future years, as species may become naturalized or disappear. Long Island is of interest because it most probably has a larger proportion of introduced plants for its area than any other region in the country. As it is, at least two of the species to whose inclusion in my lists Mr. Taylor objects as growing only under cultivation, have escaped in the immediate vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor. They are *Paulownia tomentosa* and *Centaurea cyanus*. It is certain that by diligent inquiry, Mr. Taylor can locate others. Is it possible that Mr. Taylor is not interested in such records? Is one to infer that Long Island can no longer offer encouragement to field workers?

The next article (**2**), which Mr. Taylor neither approves nor specifically criticizes contains records of Cryptogams exclusive of Pteridophyta, groups of plant life in which he does not seem to be interested. Here, however, I wish to acknowledge the courteous criticisms of

Dr. A. J. Grout who wrote to me that he had already listed certain mosses I had recorded in this article as being previously unknown to the Cold Spring Harbor region. This has been the only direct criticism I have received on these two papers. The last contribution has seemed of value to other botanists because it puts on record certain species now inhabiting the island which will tend to disappear with the expansion of the New York City district.

The rest of Mr. Taylor's complaints are directed toward the compilation reprinted for practical reasons under the general title of "Native Flora of the Vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y." (**3**). This title is open to serious objection on the part of some because according to a later note by Taylor (**6**), only 1802 of the 1865 living species given are *native*, the rest being introduced, naturalized, or *non est inventus!* However, the true status of most of these had been brought out previously (**1**), and qualified by the statement in (**3**), p. 12–24 that to the list were added some plants frequently encountered on the field excursions of the botanical classes. All except one of these species are included in Gray's Manual, and their inclusion represents special consideration for botanists interested in the Flora of Long Island for other than floristic or geographical reasons. Mr. Taylor further objects to the title by endeavoring to make some of the localities appear much farther from Cold Spring Harbor than they really are. However, enthusiastic and accurate students of the flora will under the summer conditions of transportation be able to explore any of the localities given in the list and return in a day, as the records included lie well within a 25-mile radius. Mr. Taylor himself stretches the word "vicinity" a great deal farther than this when he lists plants from Philadelphia in his Flora of the Vicinity of New York.

Vitis-Idaea Vitis-Idaea (L.) Britton, a species which Mr. Taylor for some reason transposed to *Vaccinium* in his review, is known in cultivation on at least three estates comparatively near Bayville, L. I. Since it is also known that birds eat the fruit, this fact may explain my finding it growing wild. Hence there was no occasion for getting excited over the "find" any more than was the case when the crowberry, *Empetrum nigrum*, was found in cultivation at some of these places previous to 1924. Fossil plants from Staten Island were included in the list because further search on Long Island will in fair probability uncover most of the same species there, and such a probability has its interest for students of the fossil flora. This fact

should have been explicitly stated in the publication as it was in the case of other plant species included for similar reasons, but it was felt that the inference would be clear to those familiar with the geology of Long Island.

Taylor (6) further cites 38 *native American species* in the list not definitely known from Long Island, according to his impressions. Since he does not qualify his statement by saying that these species are found there in cultivation only, the following should be considered with this point in view. Some of these species were copied into the "Native Flora" from Jelliffe's Flora of Long Island with or without additional confirmation by the writer, namely: *Thuja occidentalis, Sparganium simplex, Sagittaria rigida, Carex laxiflora, Carex sterilis, Juncoides carolinae* (Jelliffe seems to have confused this with *J. pilosum*), *Myrica cerifera, Betula nigra, Ribes triste*(possibly confused by Jelliffe with *R. rubrum*), *Rubus odoratus, Acer negundo, Acer pennsylvanicum, Viola blanda, Viola labradorica, Aralia spinosa, Thaspium trifoliatum, Chionanthus virginica.* In absence of supporting specimens I will gladly inform Mr. Taylor where many of these plants may be found, and he may consider the possibility of their escape from cultivation. The authenticity of other of these records is best taken up with Dr. Jelliffe.

Other species were copied into the Native Flora from a check list of the Cold Spring Harbor Flora kept at the Department of Genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington. These are *Carex Asa-Grayi, Carex interior, Salix petiolaris, Amelanchier spicata. Potentilla Robbinsiana* instead of *P. pumila* was erroneously given from this region. *Ibidium praecox* was collected by Professor Johnston, presumably near Cold Spring Harbor according to a record found here. *Aster Herveyi* is also checked on the list of the Station, verifying our record of it. *Trillium grandiflorum, Rhododendron maximum,* and *Cornus stolonifera* are found in cultivation in the vicinity but only the latter was so indicated in the Native Flora. *Quercus phellos* whose presence on Long Island Mr. Taylor doubts, is listed by Britton and Brown from there, and is in cultivation at least on the Matheson estate, Lloyd Neck. Our record of *Quercus ellipsoidalis* from Bayville, which is not approved by Mr. Taylor is of interest because Britton and Brown tend to regard it as a hybrid between *Q. velutina* and *Q. coccinea*, both of these species being found in the adjacent region.

Unfortunately, the accidental destruction of specimens used in

identifying the following plants leaves that point unsettled until future verification is possible, in the case of the following species; *Xanthoxalis grandis, Peramium ophioides, Potamogeton alpinus, Panicum Wilcoxianum, Alsine borealis, Carex tenuiflora, Scirpus sylvaticus, Chamaesyce humistrata, Galium trifidum pusillum, Heliopsis scabra,* and *Millegrana radiola.* The impressions concerning the majority of these are positive however, as they had the verification of other botanists and their presence was otherwise substantiated by the reported distribution of the species. Some are undoubtedly waifs for whose reception Long Island seems well adapted, while in others there is the possibility of mistaken identification under the circumstances. *Chamaecyparis thyoides* from the White Cedar Swamp at Merrick was inadvertently confused with *Thuja occidentalis,* in one of the lists, a fact however which would lead no worker astray who consulted the bibliography given with the paper.

As an aid to the very evident purposes my papers have endeavored to serve, I have welcomed certain of Mr. Taylor's remarks, and especially his last (**6**). On the whole however, he has shown a tendency to turn the wholesome flow of his criticism into a devastating flood from which I have been only saved by the life preserving facts cited!

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1. Grier, N. M. Unreported Plants from Long Island. I. Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta. Torreya **24**: 71–76.

2. ——— Unreported Plants from Long Island. II. Cryptogams Exclusive of Pteridophyta. Torreya **25**: 5–10; 29–35.

3. ——— The Native Flora of the Vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., N. Y., Amer. Mid. Nat. **9**: Nov., Jan., May, July, Sept. 1924–25.

4. Taylor, N. Grier's Notes on the Flora of Long Island. Rhodora **27**: 213–15.

5. Skutch, A. F. The Native Flora of the Vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I., N. Y. Torreya **26**: 37–38. A review.

6. Taylor, N. Notes and Corrections on N. M. Grier's Native Flora of the Vicinity of Cold Spring Harbor, L. I. A mimeographed list issued in July 1926 from the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.